

## ICE PALACE.

Amusements in Progress at the Winter Carnival in Montreal.

A Magnificent Palace Built Entirely of Blocks of Ice.

The Apartments Brilliantly Lighted Makes a Scene of Splendor.

Montreal, January 24.—The second and most interesting day of the Winter Carnival has proved all that Canadians could wish or their visitors from abroad could anticipate. In showing to advantage the healthful and exciting winter sports which are characteristic of the Dominion, the biting cold of yesterday, which made it uncomfortable to witness the out door sports, was succeeded during the night by a more moderate temperature, and throughout the day the weather has been such as to make the streets of Montreal comfortable to natives and strangers alike. The city is literally packed with visitors from all parts of Canada and the United States, some of them coming from far in the sunny South to witness the games and participate in the grand carnival on the snow and ice. The trains entering Montreal from all directions this morning were even more crowded than they were yesterday, and it is now impossible to secure accommodations in the hotels, while the few rooms in private houses which had not already been appropriated are held at exorbitant prices. The main attraction which drew this vast concourse of people to the city was the announcement that the great ice palace would be formally thrown open to-night and illumination with electric lights, and thousands will probably leave to-morrow content with having witnessed this crowning event of the carnival. The streets, which have been uncomfortably crowded to-day will then become tolerable for pedestrians, but the indications are that thousands of visitors will remain throughout the carnival, and that the city will reap a rich financial harvest at the expense of the strangers within her gates. The success of the carnival from every point of view, is thoroughly assured.

In honor of the formal opening of the carnival Montreal to-day was decked in festive colors, and in all the principal streets flags were waving and streamers flying in the air. It has been a gala day for the city. Every house of any pretensions is adorned with the national colors, and during the day small flags appeared in the hands of the children and waved from the heads of horses. Scarcely a vehicle appeared in the streets which was not decorated in some way in honor of the day. From early in the morning the citizens began to swarm the main thoroughfares and mingle with those who had come from afar off to witness Canada's national sports. The sun poured down upon the scene in all his splendor during the day, and the only thing to mar the festivities was the fear that the weather might moderate too much and injure the ice, upon which the success of the games depends so largely. The mayor had proclaimed a half-holiday, and as a result the business houses of the city were closed in the afternoon, and their thousands of occupants poured into the streets to add to the vast throng which filled them in the morning, and the leading thoroughfares assumed a cheerful and animated appearance, such as they have never worn before in the memory of the traditional "oldest inhabitant." That the great throngs were amply satisfied with the execution of the programme prepared by the committee was fully established by the expressions of wonder and admiration which arose from the multitudes on all sides as they witnessed the sports. It was a day long to be remembered in Montreal.

The Curling Bonspiel was resumed at an early hour, and attracted large crowds of interested and enthusiastic spectators. The matches were continued to-day under covered rinks, the water in the harbor having fallen last night sufficiently to render the open spaces where the playing was done yesterday uneven, and therefore unfit for good sport. The pastime was attractive enough to engage the attention of thousands of spectators, many of whom have never before witnessed a curling match, and they watched the movements of the curling stones with eager interest. The play was more effective and exciting than that of yesterday, and it is evident that intense enthusiasm will be elicited to-morrow when the pool is reached in the bonspiel. The players are all doing their best, but from present indications the Western Ontario Club will carry off the honors unless some unforeseen accident occurs. They are the pronounced favorites with the experts in the game among the spectators, and should they fail to win a great deal of money will be lost on them.

For the afternoon a programme literally crammed full of sports and amusements had been prepared by the committee, and it was carried out fully and successfully to the minutest detail. The first event was the grand sleigh parade, which was the largest and most brilliant spectacle of the kind ever witnessed in Montreal. The parade was on the principal boulevard of the city, and the sidewalks and windows of the houses on either side were packed with people witnessing the magnificent display. More than 2,000 sleighs were in the procession, all of them well, and some of them magnificently equipped. The cabmen of the city joined with the citizens in this monster turnout, and the line was so long and solid that the Mounted Fire Brigade, which desired to take its place in the procession, was unable to secure a position. Some of the sleighs were drawn by six horses, while a great number of them were driven four in hand. While this grand parade was in progress a snow-shoe steeplechase was contested between a number of students of McGill's College, and this exciting contest elicited admiring comments from thousands of visitors who had never before witnessed such a race. In the meantime, tobogganing, which seems to have completely fascinated the visitors from the United States, many of whom join the Canadians in the exhilarating sport,

was in full progress on Mount Royal, which is in fine condition for the pastime, and attracted thousands of spectators, as well as those who participated in its pleasures. Several ladies and gentlemen were fractured both in the arms and legs yesterday while engaged in tobogganing, through inexperienced persons attempting to steer, but no accidents occurred to-day to mar the pleasures of the occasion.

Toward evening a light fall of snow began, but it was not heavy enough to interfere with the execution of the day's programme, and to-night all Montreal and her guests were out to witness the crowning event of the day and of the carnival—the opening of the great Ice Palace. This novel structure was illuminated with electric lights from the top of the spire to its base, and they shone through the transparent blocks of ice with a brilliancy which made the unique building glitter as though a thousand brilliants were flashing from its sides. The beauty of the scene was rather enhanced than marred by the feather flakes of snow which were silently falling, and, to add to the attraction and bring the day's sports to a grand conclusion, about 1,500 members of the snow-shoe clubs, dressed in unique and grotesque costumes, appeared on the scene with flaming torches, and after passing the palace, started on a tramp through the snowstorm over the mountains. It is admitted by all that this was the most magnificent spectacle ever witnessed in Montreal. The principal feature of the carnival to-morrow will be a banquet given by the corporation to distinguished visitors and a fancy dress carnival in the evening.

## NOLAN COUNTY.

Derivation of Sweetwater's Name—Hotels—The Pioneer and the Bicycle—Court House—General Notes.

Correspondence of the Gazette, Sweetwater, January 29.—This town takes its name from a stream called that. Why any one ever conceived such an appellation for this stream is more than any ordinary amount of reasoning can explain. The water here is "gypsum," except that to be had here and there out of a cistern.

Drug men are liable to continue to do a good business in astrinents here. Here we find the enterprising firm of Elliott & Roe, lumber men, with a large stock of lumber of every description. Their business is on the increase, and they advertise through your publications.

This town is only just sprouted yet. There is some excellent gentlemen selling goods here, who show the usual enterprise of the Texas merchant. They have yet to learn that a judicious use of printers ink is the safest and best paying investment that a man can make. Their kind attention to the stranger bespeaks that genial hospitality that is so admirable always in the host.

Hotels in Sweetwater abound in an unusual number. Fort Worth or Colorado either would do well to better by Sweetwater's example.

Wandering through the streets can be seen the hardy pioneer hunter, dressed in his comfortable suit of coyote skin, and only a few feet distant you may notice the prairie dog as he cunningly avoids a collision with the first young man who whirls by you on his inanimate charger, the bicycle.

Much comment is made by strangers about the magnificent court house in course of erection here. It is really a more elegant building than the one you have in Fort Worth and looks very much like a stranger in this neighborhood. This is a piece of Texas extravagance that speaks well of her citizens. A little extravagance in that direction is more excusable than to squander money on some job that pans out nothing.

This is a point from which a good many cattle are shipped during that season. Quite a number of stock men of one kind or another are to be found here every day.

If you are a stranger prospecting through Texas you can obtain any information desirable concerning northwest Texas by calling on Messrs. Cowan & Posey, attorneys at law and land agents, whose card can be found elsewhere in this paper. These gentlemen combine the qualifications necessary to constitute an intelligent firm of lawyers. Modest, yet positive, their pleasantries are not allowed to overbalance a sound discretion. It is indeed a pleasant fate to be compelled to spend a few moments with such congenial spirits.

The wind is blowing almost a hurricane here and a man's eyes must be cast iron or stone-blind to face the sand as it comes beating against you like so many needles pricking you. A good rain is very much needed just now, but there is nothing to be made by hazing a guess about when it will come.

A serious and perhaps fatal accident occurred at Colorado City on yesterday afternoon. A Mexican, who was on a freight train, fell or was knocked under the wheels when they run over his right arm literally making jelly of his whole arm.

Sweetwater is improving with such buildings as are a credit to any country.

The citizens are genteel, intelligent and hospitable.

## MARION COUNTY.

A Glance at Fort Worth and Its Prosperity—New Depot Wanted.

Correspondence of the Gazette, Jefferson, January 28.—It has only been within the past six months we have become familiar with the enterprise of your growing city. Since Fort Worth has assumed such importance as a railroad center and your Daily GAZETTE, now so greatly enlarged, is being sold daily on the cars, and taken through this eastern portion of the state, we are glad to hear of your prosperity, of the sale of your city bonds at such favorable figures, to hear of your splendid water works, of your improved streets, of the enterprise of your citizens in public and private buildings.

In looking at your location, the grand trunk lines of railroads in the vast country lying north, south and west of you, the Fort has certainly a chance to grow. One matter especially should be attended to. Your grand central depot you thought large enough will not hold the crowd going through. Can't you enlarge it so that the ladies and children can sit down?

## WALKER COUNTY.

Dull Times and Disagreeable Weather—Normal School Notes.

Huntsville, January 29.—There is but little business going on here now, hence but little news. The weather has been most wretched since Christmas. We have a cold spell, and as soon as it turns warm it goes to raining and rains till it turns cold again.

The principal business here now seems to be in cast-iron plows, shovel plows and other primitive farming tools suitable for working among the grubs.

The new brick buildings spoken of in a previous letter, are all completed and filled with stocks of general merchandise, and, by the way, that is a peculiarity with Huntsville, everybody that sells anything except drugs and liquors, sells everything—hardware, farming tools, harness, saddlery, dry goods, groceries and a little of most everything else you can call for.

The first half of the year's session of the Sam Houston Normal ended last Saturday. They have accomplished an immense amount of work, for the time, and the high grade that most of the students have received shows that they have "spread" themselves to repay the state for its expense in giving them a free education. It is evident that the money spent by the state on this school is not spent in vain, and will bring forth fruit in an abundance of the good teachers Texas needs so badly. Miss Mary Crisp of the normal returns to her home at Columbus to-day. Miss C. is a general favorite and we hate to see her depart. Our lovable teacher of music and calisthenics has been ill for two or three weeks, and starts for New Orleans to-morrow, where she will stay till she recovers. President Baldwin is an enthusiastic advocate of a liberal free school system. He advocates the plan of having a central high school in each justice's precinct, and the principal of the high school being superintendent of all the common schools in the precinct. He wants at least seven or eight months of school a year. This system is proving to be very successful in Indiana.

I find my greatest pleasure when I can steal off to the "Reading Room" for a few minutes and read the GAZETTE, a letter from Slade is a perfect treat.

## RUNAWAY POLICEMAN.

He Leaves His Family and Sails for Europe With a Widow.

New York, January 29.—Albert Beal is a good looking young policeman, who was detailed some time ago from patrol duty to do special work about the Central office in Mulberry street. On last Wednesday he handed in his resignation. Inquiry into the reason of this action developed some singular facts that created much comment among the inspectors and other officials.

Beal is a married man and lived with his wife at No. 135 Bowery. The couple had three children, all of whom died in infancy. About six months ago Beal transferred his affections from his wife to Mrs. Katrina Schiver, a pretty widow, who kept boarding house at No. 322 Bowery. Much of Beal's time after that was spent with the widow. When he resigned from the force he went to his home and told his wife she must get ready and go to Philadelphia where her parents were, as he was going to leave the city for some time. Mrs. Beal did not ask any questions but packed up her things and on Friday went to Philadelphia.

Mrs. Schiver heard a few weeks ago that she had fallen heir to a considerable amount of money in Germany, so she determined to go to Europe and claim her windfall. She formerly kept a music store in the Bowery, and had \$1,000 in the Bowery Savings Bank. She drew this out and also disposed of her personal effects. She is thought to have about \$7,000 in cash with her.

Last Saturday morning she got in a carriage in front of her house, and bidding her friends good-bye, drove to the steamer Neckar. In the carriage with her was Beal. He said he was only going to see her to the steamer when he would return, but night came and Beal did not come back. His mother and sisters made inquiries and learned he had taken passage on the same steamer with the widow. A letter from Beal to his wife came to Beal's mother. In it he asks his wife not to fret, as he was going to Europe to get revenge on Mrs. Schiver, but did not say what his revenge was for. His family think he has gone with the idea of getting possession of Mrs. Schiver's money and then leaving her. The fancy this will be difficult to do, as the widow has had two husbands and knows a thing or two herself.

## MRS. WEBER.

A Wife who was Valued at One Cent—Her Antecedents.

Colonel Abner Taylor of Chicago has just been mulcted in one cent damages for alienating the affections of the wife of Mr. Weber, of that city. Who Mrs. Weber is may be inferred from the following statement made to a reporter of the Chicago Times: "Let me see—Franklin Pierce was elected to the presidency in 1852, so it must have been late in 1853, or early in 1854, that W. W. Drummond was appointed chief justice of Utah. Drummond was a lawyer of some talent and a very handsome man. He went to Washington from Henderson county, Illinois, where he was residing, to arrange the preliminaries of his journey to Utah, and there met Mrs. Pleasant Ridgely. She was considered rather a fascinating woman, and quite handsome. She doesn't look it now though."

James Cameron Allen, and indeed all the officials about Washington with "boy" tendencies knew the Ridgely woman in those days. Well, Drummond took her to Utah with him, leaving his wife and six children in Henderson county. His connection with the woman caused some trouble even among the Mormons, who objected to the relationship and he was forced to resign. When he returned here he went to Grundy county, instituted a suit for divorce in his wife's name against himself, and, it is supposed, had the Ridgely woman sign the petition as Jennina Drummond. Bob Blackwell took the case, and the divorce was granted. Blackwell subsequently discovering that the divorce was fraudulent, wrote to Mrs.

Drummond, advising her of the facts, and telling her it could be set aside. The injured wife replied that as he had proved himself such a scoundrel she was satisfied to let the matter rest as it was. Drummond afterwards went East with his alleged paramour, and was written up in the papers as a divorcee to the judiciary. Everybody knows about that. Well, Mrs. Pleasant Ridgely and Drummond broke up, and it is said that the next thing she did of much note was to inveigle old Weber into marrying her. Mrs. Weber and Pleasant Ridgely are the same women—the original adventuress who was known to all the fast senators, congressmen and government officials in Washington thirty years ago."

"What became of Drummond?" "He's loafing around somewhere, a total wreck, the only good thing he ever did was to educate his children. His wife was one of the most estimable and virtuous women I ever knew."

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Lost—On the 13th, red Gordon setter dog. Has on collar with plate. Answers to name of "Jolly." A liberal reward will be paid for his return to R. E. Montgomery's residence. Jan 16 tf

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